

COU

- Comes like a rushing lion, *couch* like spaniels,
With lolling tongues, and tremble at the paw. *Dryden*.
3. To lye down in secret, or in ambush.
We'll *couch* i' th' cattle-ditch, 'till we see the light of our
fairies. *Shakespeare's Merry Wives of Windsor*.
- The earl of Angus *couch'd* in a furrow, and was pass'd over
for dead, until a horse was brought for his escape. *Hayward*.
4. To lye in a bed, or stratum.
Bless'd of the Lord be his land for the dew, and for the
deep that *coucheth* beneath. *Deutr. xxxiii. 13.*
5. To stoop; or bend down; to lower in fear, in pain, in
respect.
To *couch* down between Issachar, is a strong ass *couching*
down between two burdens. *Gen. xlix. 14.*
- These *couchings*, and these lowly curtesies,
Might stir the blood of ordinary men. *Shakefp. Jul. Caesar*.
- To *Couch*. *v. a.*
1. To repose; to lay on a place of repose.
Where unbruis'd youth, with unflurr'd brain,
Doth *couch* his limbs, there golden sleep doth reign. *Shakefp.*
2. To lay down any thing in a bed, or stratum.
If the weather be warm, we immediately *couch* malt about
a foot thick; but if a hotter season require it, we spread it on
the floor much thinner. *Mortimer's Husbandry*.
- The sea and the land make one globe; and the waters *couch*
themselves, as close as may be, to the centre of this globe, in a
spherical convexity. *Burnet's Theory of the Earth*.
3. To bed; to hide in another body.
It is at this day in use at Gaza, to *couch* potsherds, or vessels
of earth, in their walls, to gather the wind from the top, and
to pass it down in spouts into rooms. *Bacon's Nat. History*.
4. To involve; to include; to comprise.
But who will call those noble who deface,
By meaner acts, the glories of their race;
Whose only title to our father's fame,
Is *couch'd* in the dead letters of their name? *Dryden's Juu.*
That great argument for a future state, which St. Paul hath
couch'd in the words I have read to you. *Atterbury's Sermons*.
5. To include secretly; to hide: with *under*.
The foundation of all parables is some analogy or simili-
tude between the topical or allusive part of the parable and
the thing *couch'd* under it, and intended by it. *South's Sermons*.
- There is all this, and more, that lies naturally *couch'd* under
this allegory. *L'Estrange, Fable 3.*
- The true notion of the institution being lost, the tradition
of the deluge, which was *couch'd* under it, was thereupon at
length suspended and lost. *Woodward's Natural History*.
6. To lay close to another.
And over all, with brazen scales was arm'd,
Like plated coat of steel, so *couch'd* near,
That nought might pierce. *Fairy Queen, b. i. cant. 11.*
7. To fix the spear in the rest; in the posture of attack.
The knight 'gan fairly *couch* his steady spear,
And fiercely ran at him with rigorous might. *Fairy Queen*.
- Before each van
Prick forth the aery knights, and *couch* their spears,
'Till thickest legions close. *Milton's Paradise Lost, b. ii.*
- The former way'd in air
His flaming sword, *Aeneas couch'd* his spear. *Dryden's Æn.*
8. To depress the film that overpreads the pupil of the eye.
This is improperly called *couching* the eye, for *couching* the
cataract: with equal impropriety they sometimes speak of
couching the patient.
Some artist, whose nice hand
Couches the cataracts, and clears his eyes,
And all at once a flood of glorious light
Comes rushing on his eyes. *Dennis*.
- Whether the cataract be wafed by being separated from its
veils, I have never known positively, by dissecting one that
had been *couch'd*. *Sharp*.
- Couch*, *n. f.* [from the verb.]
1. A seat of repose, on which it is common to lye down
dressed.
So Satan fell; and straight a fiery globe
Of angels on full sail of wing flew nigh,
Who on their plumed vans receiv'd him lost,
From his uneasy station, and upbore
As on a floating *couch* through the blithe air. *Milt. Par. Reg.*
- To loll on *couches*, rich with citron steds,
And lay their guilty limbs in Tyrian beds. *Dryd. Virg. Geo.*
2. A bed; a place of repose.
Let not the royal bed of Denmark be
A *couch* for luxury and damned incest. *Shakefp. Hamlet*.
- Dire was the toffing! deep the groans! despair
Tended the sick, buffett from *couch* to *couch*. *Milt. Pa. Lost*.
- This gentle knight, inspir'd by jolly May,
Forsook his early *couch* at early day. *Dryden's Fables*.
- O, ye immortal pow'rs that guard the just,
Watch round his *couch*, and soften his repose. *Addis. Cato*.
3. A layer, or stratum.
This heap is called by maltsters a *couch*, or bed of raw
malt. *Mortimer's Husbandry*.

COV

- COUCHANT*. *adj.* [*couchant*, Fr.] Lying down; squatting.
If a lion were the proper coat of Judah, yet were it not
probably a lion rampant, but rather *couchant* or dormant.
Brown's Vulgar Errors, b. v. c. 10.
- As a tiger, who by chance hath spy'd,
In some purlieu, two gentle fawns at play,
Strait *couches* close; then rising, changes oft
His *couchant* watch. *Milton's Paradise Lost, b. iv. l. 403.*
- COUCHEE*. *n. f.* [French.] Bedtime; the time of visiting late
at night.
None of her sylvan subjects made their court;
Levees and *couches* pass'd without resort. *Dryden*.
- COUCHER*. *n. f.* [from *couch*.] He that couches or depresses
cataracts.
- COUCHELLOW*. *n. f.* [*couch* and *fellow*.] Bedfellow; com-
panion.
I have grated upon my good friends for three reprieves for
you, and your *couchfellow*, Nim; or else you had looked
through the grate like a gemmy of baboons. *Shakefp.*
- COUCHGRASS*. *n. f.* A weed.
The *couchgrass*, for the first year, insensibly robs most
plants in fandy grounds apt to graze. *Mortimer's Husbandry*.
- COVE*. *n. f.*
1. A small creek or bay.
2. A shelter; a cover.
- COVENANT*. *n. f.* [*covenant*, Fr. *conventum*, Latin.]
1. A contract; a stipulation.
He makes a *covenant* never to destroy
The earth again by flood; nor let the sea
Surpass his bounds. *Milton's Paradise Lost, b. xi. l. 892.*
- The English make the ocean their abode,
Whose ready sails with ev'ry wind can fly,
And make a *covenant* with th' unconstant sky. *Waller*.
2. An agreement on certain terms; a compact.
A *covenant* is a mutual compact, as we now consider it, be-
twixt God and man; consisting of mercies on God's part,
made over to man, and of conditions on man's part, required
by God. *Hammond's Pract. Cath.*
- Some men live as if they had made a *covenant* with hell:
let divines, fathers, friends say what they will, they stop their
ears against them. *L'Estrange*.
3. A writing containing the terms of agreement.
I shall but lend my diamond 'till your return; let there be
covenants drawn between us. *Shakefp. Cymbeline*.
- To *COVENANT*. *v. n.* [from the noun.]
1. To bargain; to stipulate.
His lord used commonly to *covenant* with him, which if
at any time the tenant disliked, he might freely depart at his
pleasure. *Spenser's State of Ireland*.
- It had been *covenanted* between him and the king of Eng-
land, that neither of them should treat of peace or truce with
the French king. *Hayward on Edward VI.*
- By words men come to know one another's minds; by
these they *covenant* and confederate. *South's Sermons*.
- Jupiter *covenanted* with him, that it should be hot or cold,
wet or dry, calm or windy, as the tenant should direct. *L'Estr.*
2. To agree with another on certain terms: with *for*.
They *covenanted* with him for thirty pieces of silver. *Mat.*
- Pointing to a heap of land,
For ev'ry grain to live a year demand;
But, ah! unmindful of th' effect of time,
Forgot to *covenant* for youth and prime. *Gort's Ovid*.
- COVENANTE*. *n. f.* [from *covenant*.] A party to a covenant;
a stipulator; a bargainer.
Both of them were respective rites of their admission into
the several covenants, and the *covenantees* become thereby en-
titled to the respective privileges. *Ayliff's Parergon*.
- COVENANTER*. *n. f.* [from *covenant*.] One who takes a cove-
nant. A word introduced in the civil wars.
The *covenanters* shall have no more assurance of mutual
assistance each from other, after the taking of the covenant,
than they had before. *Oxford Reasons against the Covenant*.
- COVENOUS*. *adj.* [from *covin*.] Fraudulent; collusive; trickish.
I wish some means devised for the restraint of these inor-
dinate and *covenous* leases of lands, holden in chief, for hun-
dreds or thousands of years. *Bacon's Off. of Alienation*.
- To *COVER*. *v. a.* [*couvrir*, French.]
1. To overspread any thing with something else.
The pastures are clothed with flocks, the valleys also are
covered over with corn. *Pf. lxx. 13.*
- A man ought not to *cover* his head.
Go to thy fellows, bid them *cover* the table, serve in the
meat, and we will come in to dinner. *Shak. Merch. of Venice*.
2. To conceal under something laid over.
Or lead me to some solitary place,
And *cover* my retreat from human race. *Dryd. Virg. Geo.*
3. To hide by superficial appearances.
To overwhelm; to bury.
Raillery and wit serve only to *cover* nonsense with shame,
when reason has first proved it to be mere nonsense. *Watt.*
4. To shelter; to conceal from harm.

Charity

COV

- Charity shall *cover* the multitude of sins. *1 Pet. iv. 8.*
6. To incubate; to brood on.
Natural historians observe, that only the male birds have
voices; that their songs begin a little before breeding-time,
and end a little after; that whilst the hen is *covering* her eggs,
the male generally takes his stand upon a neighbouring bough
within her hearing, and by that means amuses and diverts her
with his songs during the whole time of her sitting. *Add. Spect.*
7. To copulate with a female.
8. To wear the hat, or garment of the head, as a mark of
superiority.
That king had conferred the honour of grandee upon him,
which was of no other advantage or signification to him, than
to be *covered* in the presence of that king. *Dryd. Dedicat. Æn.*
- COVER*. *n. f.* [from the verb.]
1. Any thing that is laid over another.
The secundine is but a general *cover*, not shaped according
to the parts, but the skin is shaped according to the parts.
Bacon's Natural History, N. 732.
- The fountains could be strengthened no other way than by
making a strong *cover* or arch over them. *Burnet's Theory*.
- Orestes' bulky rage,
Unsatisfy'd with margins closely writ,
Foams o'er the *covers*, and not finish'd yet. *Dryd. Juu. Sat.*
- With your hand, or any other *cover*, you stop the vessel,
so as wholly to exclude the air. *Ray on the Creation*.
2. A concealment; a screen; a veil; a superficial appearance,
under which something is hidden.
The truth and reason of things may be artificially and ef-
fectually insinuated, under the *cover* either of a real fact, or
of a supposed one. *L'Estrange*.
- As the spleen has great inconveniences, so the pretence of
it is a handsome *cover* for imperfections. *Collier on the Spleen*.
3. Shelter; defence.
In the mean time, by being compelled to lodge in the field,
which grew now to be very cold, whilst his army was under
cover, they might be forced to retire. *Clarendon, b. viii.*
- COVER-SHAME*. *n. f.* [*cover* and *shame*.] Some appearance
used to conceal infamy.
Does he put on holy garments for a *cover-shame* of lewd-
ness? *Dryden's Spanish Fryar*.
- COVERING*. *n. f.* [from *cover*.] Drefs; vesture; any thing
spread over another.
The women took and spread a *covering* over the well's
mouth. *2 Sam. xvii. 19.*
- Bring some *covering* for this naked soul,
Whom I'll intreat to lead me. *Shakefp. King Lear*.
- Sometimes providence casts things so, that truth and interest
lie the same way; and when it is wrapt up in this *covering*,
men can be content to follow it. *South*.
- Then from the floor he rais'd a royal bed,
With *coverings* of Sidonian purple spread. *Dryden's Fables*.
- COVERLET*. *n. f.* [*coverlet*, French.] The outermost of the
bedcloaths; that under which all the rest are concealed.
Lay her in lillies and in violets,
And silken curtains over her display,
And odour'd sheets, and arras *coverlets*. *Spenser's Epithal.*
- With silken curtains and gold *coverlets*,
Therein to throw her sumptuous Bellamoure. *Fairy Queen*.
- This done, the host produc'd the genial bed,
Which with no colly *coverlet* they spread. *Dryden's Fables*.
- The difficulties I was in, for want of a house and bed,
being forced to lie on the ground, wrapt up in my *coverlet*.
Gulliver's Travels.
- COVERT*. *n. f.* [from *couvert*, French.]
1. A shelter; a defence.
Let mine outcasts dwell with thee, Moab; be thou a *covert*
to them from the face of the spoiler. *Isaiah, xvi. 4.*
- There shall be a tabernacle for a shadow in the day-time
from the heat, and for a place of refuge, and for a *covert* from
storm and rain. *Jf. iv. 6.*
- They are by sudden alarm, or watch-word, to be called out
to their military motions, under sky or *covert*, according to
the season, as was the Roman wont. *Milton on Education*.
- It was the hour of night, when thus the Son
Commun'd in silent walk, then laid him down
Under the hospitable *covert* nigh
Of trees thick interwoven. *Milton's Paradise Lost, b. ii.*
- Now have a care your carnations catch not too much wet,
therefore retire them to *covert*. *Evelyn's Kalendar*.
2. A thicket, or hiding place.
Tow'rd him I made; but he was 'ware of me,
And stole into the *covert* of the wood. *Shakefp. Rom. and Jul.*
- I shall be your faithful guide,
Through this gloomy *covert* wide. *Milton*.
- Thence to the *coverts*, and the conscious groves,
The scenes of his past triumphs and his loves. *Denham*.
- Deep into some thick *covert* would I run,
Impenetrable to the stars or sun. *Dryden's State of Innocence*.
- The deer is lodg'd; I've track'd her to her *covert*:
Be sure ye mind the word; and when I give it,
Rush in at once, and seize upon your prey. *Addis. Cato*.

COV

- COVERT*. *adj.* [*couvert*, French.]
1. Sheltered; not open; not exposed.
You are, of either side the green, to plant a *covert* alley;
upon carpenter's work, about twelve foot in height, by which
you may go in shade into the garden. *Bacon, Essay 47.*
- The fox is a beast also very prejudicial to the husbandman,
especially in places that are near forest-woods and *covert*
places. *Mortimer's Husbandry*.
- Together let us beat this ample field,
Try what the open, what the *covert* yield. *Pope's Essays*.
2. Secret; hidden; private; insidious.
And let us presently go fit in council,
How *covert* matters may be best disclos'd,
And open perils surest answered. *Shakefp. Julius Caesar*.
- By what best way,
Whether of open war, or *covert* guile,
We now debate. *Milton's Paradise Lost, b. ii. l. 441.*
- COVERT*. *adj.* [*couvert*, French.] The state of a woman shel-
tered by marriage under her husband; as *covert* baron, feme
covert.
- Instead of her being under *covert* baron, to be under *covert*
feme myself; to have my body disabled, and my head for-
tified. *Dryden's Spanish Fryar*.
- COVER-T-WAY*. *n. f.* [from *covert* and *way*.]
It is, in fortification, a space of ground level with the field,
on the edge of the ditch, three or four fathom broad, ranging
quite round the half moons, or other works toward the coun-
try. One of the greatest difficulties in a siege is to make a
lodgment on the *cover-way*, because usually the besieged pal-
lisade it along the middle, and undermine it on all sides. It
is sometimes called the corridor, and sometimes the counter-
scarp, because it is on the edge of the scarp. *Harris*.
- COVERTLY*. *adv.* [from *covert*.] Secretly; closely; in private;
with privacy.
Yet still Aragnol (so his foe was hight)
Lay lurking, *covertly* him to surprize. *Spenser's Muirpottm.*
- How can't thou cross this marriage?
—Not honestly, my lord; but so *covertly*, that no disho-
nesty shall appear in me. *Shakefp. Much ado about Nothing*.
- Amongst the poets, Persius *covertly* strikes at Nero; some
of whose verses he recites with scorn and indignation. *Dryden*.
- COVERTNESS*. *n. f.* [from *covert*.] Secrecy; privacy. *Dict.*
- COVERTURE*. *n. f.* [from *covert*.]
1. Shelter; defence; not exposure.
It may be it is rather the shade, or other *coverture*, that they
take liking in, than the virtue of the herb. *Bacon's Nat. Hist.*
- He saw his guileful act
By Eve, though all unwitting, seconded
Upon her husband; saw their shame that sought
Vain *covertures*. *Milton's Paradise Lost, b. x. l. 337.*
- The winds being so fierce, and the weather so severe, as
not to suffer any thing to prosper or thrive beyond the height
of a shrub, in any of all those islands, unless it be protected
by walls; as in gardens, or other like *coverture*. *Woodward*.
2. In law.
The estate and condition of a married woman, who, by
the laws of our realm, is in *potestate viri*, and therefore dis-
abled to contract with any, to the prejudice of herself or her
husband, without his allowance or confirmation. *Coxuel*.
- The infancy of king Edward VI. and the *coverture* of queen
Mary, did, in fact, disable them to accomplish the conquest of
Ireland. *Davies on Ireland*.
- To *COVET*. *v. a.* [*couvoiter*, French.]
1. To desire inordinately; to desire beyond due bounds.
If it be a sin to *covet* honour,
I am the most offending man alive. *Shakefp. Henry V.*
- I am yet
Unknown to woman, never was forsworn,
Scarcely have *coveted* what was mine own,
At no time broke my faith. *Shakefp. Macbeth*.
- O father! can it be that souls sublime,
Return to visit our terrestrial clime?
And that the gen'rous mind, releas'd by death,
Can *covet* lazy limbs and mortal breath? *Dryden's Æn.*
2. To desire earnestly.
But *covet* earnestly the best gifts. *1 Cor. xii. 31.*
- To *COVET*. *v. n.* To have a strong desire.
The love of money is the root of all evil, which while
some *coveted* after, they have erred from the faith. *1 Tim. vi.*
- COVETABLE*. *adj.* [from *covet*.] To be wished for; to be
coveted. *Dict.*
- COVETISE*. *n. f.* [*convoitise*, French.] Avarice; covetousness
of money.
Most wretched wight, whom nothing might suffice,
Whose greedy lust did lack in greatest store;
Whose need had end, but no end *covetise*. *Fairy Queen, b. i.*
- COVETOUS*. *adj.* [*convoiteux*, French.]
1. Inordinately desirous.
While lumber'd with my dropping cloaths I lay,
The cruel nation, *covetous* of prey,
Suck'd with my blood the unwholesome coast. *Dryden's Æn.*
2. Inordinately eager of money; avaricious.

An